

Courier

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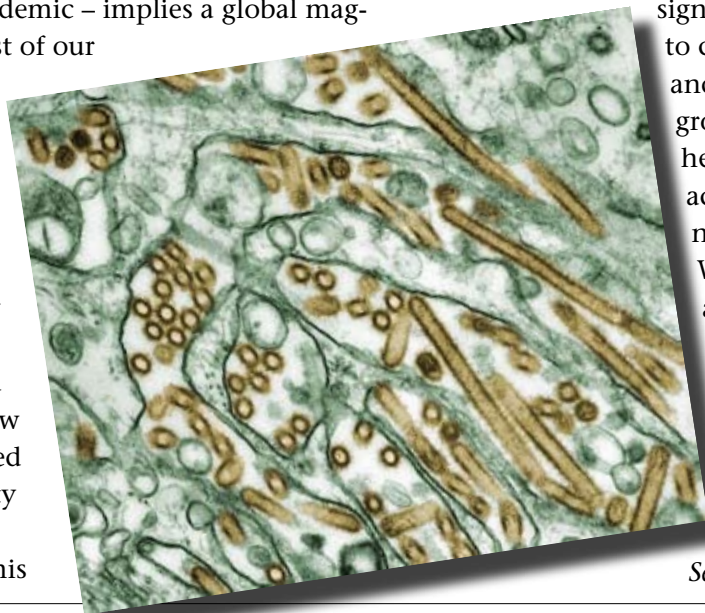
Preparing for pandemic flu

We've all read about the international and national concerns of a potential influenza pandemic. While the name alone – pandemic – implies a global magnitude, most of our concerns are local: how will the spread of this disease affect me, my family and friends, and my job? How well prepared is the county to meet the impact of this

potential health hazard? And, is it as serious a threat as has been stated?

An influenza pandemic has a very significant potential to cause rapid illness and death in all age groups, even among healthy populations, according to planning documents. While experts are watching the H5N1 bird flu virus as a possible cause of a pandemic, any novel influenza strain can cause

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If it's public, why protect it?

One of the questions asked frequently by staff is, "If the information in the county's systems is public anyway, why are there so many security policies and practices?" This is an interesting question. The reason it must be addressed is because the attitude the question reflects can lead to dangerous consequences.

First, while seemingly obvious, it must be pointed out that not every piece of information contained within county systems is actually public information. For instance, staff personnel files contain information that is not public, nor would

staff wish it to become so. The second consideration to mention relates back to my last article about the three pillars of confidentiality, integrity and availability. One of the things that allows the county to function well is its knowledge bank of highly reliable information. Unfortunately, this same knowledge bank is a target for people with malicious intent.

Consider this: How valuable is information in county systems? Do we have access to residents' home addresses? Do we deploy our first responders using

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a pandemic. So far, the H5N1 virus is spread by contact with diseased birds, does not efficiently transmit from human to human and has not been detected in the United States. Planning and preparedness are critical first steps in combating the effects of this disease.

Flu definitions

- ♦ **Seasonal (or common) flu** is a respiratory illness that can be transmitted person to person. Most people have some immunity, and a vaccine is available.
- ♦ **Avian (or bird) flu** is caused by influenza viruses that occur naturally among wild birds. The H5N1 variant is deadly to domestic fowl and can be transmitted from birds to humans. There is no human immunity and no vaccine is available.
- ♦ **Pandemic flu** is virulent human flu that causes a global outbreak, or pandemic, of serious illness. Because there is little natural immunity, the disease can spread easily from person to person. Currently, there is no pandemic flu.

Source: www.pandemicflu.gov

For several months, county leaders have been developing plans for meeting the needs of county residents and employees during a pandemic. Deputy County Executives **Verdia Haywood** and **Rob Stalzer** are heading up an initiative to prepare a draft plan for submission to the Board of Supervisors this summer. This executive team will provide oversight and set direction for an emergency response plan and procedures. "Being prepared with good procedures and identified resources is the first step in protecting county residents and employees," said Haywood.

Ensuring that policies, procedures and communications planning are integrated within appropriate county agencies, public health organizations and commercial enterprises is the responsibility of the Emergency Management Coordinating Committee. "The American Red Cross, county Health Department and other local jurisdictions as well as those of more than 40 county and state agencies will be important resources that must work together to fight a

pandemic," said Stalzer, who also serves as chairman of this leadership team.

Should a pandemic hit the area, its impact will be addressed by coordinating committees in two important areas - health care services and critical infrastructure operations.

A Public Health Coordinating Committee, chaired by medical doctors **Gloria Addo-Ayensu** and **Raja'a Satouri** of the county Health Department, is addressing health care issues such as distributing vaccines, community disease prevention, how to handle casualties, medical legal needs, first responders

to disease outbreaks and communications notifications. "Planning for pandemic flu is not just a government issue. It is important that residents understand their individual responsibility to prepare themselves and their families for pandemic flu," said Addo-Ayensu who is the Fairfax County health director.

The second coordinating committee, the Critical Infrastructure and Resources Management Coordinating Committee, will look at the requirements to keep critical infrastructure functioning, such as public works, transportation, schools, information technology and human resources. Private sector pandemic flu planning also will be addressed. The co-chairs of this committee, **Douglas Bass**, Emergency Management coordinator, and **Merni Fitzgerald**, director of the Office of Public Affairs, underscore the importance of emergency planning and good communications. "Coordination and communications are critical in keeping residents, businesses and employees informed and safe," said Fitzgerald.

A Pandemic Flu Town Meeting will be held Tuesday, April 18, at 7 p.m. in the Board Auditorium, Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, to discuss the planning for this potential disease and answer questions. County residents and employees are encouraged to attend or call in questions to 703-818-1445. For more information on pandemic flu, contact the Fairfax County Health Department at 703-246-2411, TTY 703-591-6435.

Planning and preparation are well underway in the county in the event a pandemic should occur. "Catastrophic events, such as Hurricane Katrina, have shown the importance of good planning," said Stalzer. "Fairfax County will continue being a leader in this region as preparation continues." ■

The following Web pages are good sources for information about pandemic flu.

- ♦ County Web page at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/pandemicflu
- ♦ Centers for Disease Control at www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic
- ♦ Official U.S. government Web site at www.pandemicflu.gov

Protection, from page 1

technology? What about building inspection information? Is there health, criminal investigation, vendor or contract information? Of course, the answer to all of these questions is yes. The integrity of such information is vital, especially in an emergency.

Less frightening, but equally as threatening is the possibility of information from the business of operating

the government being inappropriately accessed or disclosed. Information that is seemingly public can be used to gain access to other information or systems that are not intended to be open, such as financial or other private information.

Sometimes giving out the most seemingly innocent piece of information could provide access to a person who was attempting to socially engineer their way into a system. For instance, I recently took a class where the instructor used publicly available pieces of information to convince employees of a pharmaceutical company to give the instructor access to their corporate data. The instructor used the contracting officer's name on a purchasing document posted to the company's Web site to convince an employee to bypass security measures and give him access to more information. The instructor did this type of thing to several different staff, building on information each time and gaining greater

...the most seemingly innocent piece of information could provide access to a person who was attempting to socially engineer their way into a system.

access. Within 25 minutes, the instructor was able to install a piece of software that could be used to obtain the organization's banking information which later could be used to steal money. This example was not overly clever or original, but effective. What was fascinating was listening to the employees' side of the

conversations. They knew they were not supposed to bypass the security measures and provide access,

but the instructor knew the right names, was friendly in voice and tone, and wasn't asking for anything that seemed dangerous. What seemed like an innocent conversation was in fact a social engineering attack that led to a breach of security.

Information security policies are put in place to help establish some level of assurance that the knowledge bank of information in the county's systems can be relied on and, further, the systems will be available when they need to be. It is not at all unheard of for people who are attacking to attempt to disrupt IT resources, making them unavailable or disrupting their functionality so that even first responders get erroneous information. Requiring employees to practice information security in their daily operations is not meant to be restrictive; the intention behind the policies and practices is really to protect the county and staff. ■

- by Jennifer Penner, DIT

Security info?
Visit the
Infoweb at
<http://infoweb/dit/iso>

Award recognizes volunteer service

Do you know someone who has been instrumental in improving our community? The Barbara Vanon Volunteer Award recognizes a county resident whose volunteer service honors the memory of Barbara Vanon, former chair of the Fairfax County Electoral Board. A 200-word (or less) nomination describing the nominee's unique volunteer accomplishments should be submitted by June 16 to the Office of Equity Programs, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Complete criteria and application forms are available on the Fairfax County Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oep/bvaronapp.pdf or by calling the Office of Equity Programs at 703-324-2207, TTY 703-222-5494. The award will be presented in October. ■



Fairfax County Communication Strategy

Ordering business cards

Now there is a simple way to order business cards in the new template that is the county standard. First, be sure to follow your agency's purchasing policies and procedures when ordering business cards. Next, go to infoweb/cex/comstrategy/ and you'll find all of the information you need to order business cards, including a form that you can e-mail directly to the vendor. All employee business cards must be ordered through the county's vendor and be printed in the county's standard format.

Do you need to request an alternate format, such as printing on both sides of the card? If so, simply send an e-mail to commstrategy@fairfaxcounty.gov with an explanation of

your request in the body of the e-mail and attach the completed order form. Find the directions for ordering alternate formats at http://infoweb/cex/commstrategy/standards/business_card.htm on the Infoweb.

You can find answers to many of your questions about business cards in the strategy's frequently asked questions at <http://infoweb/cex/commstrategy/faq.htm>. The FAQs answer questions about everything from using cell phone numbers on your card to printing a card in another language. If you have additional questions about business cards, call the Office of Public Affairs at 703-324-3187, TTY 711, or send an e-mail to commstrategy@fairfaxcounty.gov. ■

National Incident Management System/ Incident Command System training

If you are a county employee who has an emergency preparedness role as outlined in the county Emergency Operation Plan or your agency's emergency planning, you should sign up for the National Incident Management System/Incident Command System training.

The Office of Emergency Management is sponsoring a course leading to certifications in ICS-100, ICS-200 and IS-700 which are required for those with a direct role in emergency preparedness, incident management or incident response. This includes people responsible for coordinating and supporting incident management activities in the county. This year, the certifications are required for local, state and federal agencies to continue receiving domestic preparedness grants.

The two-and-a-half-day course will be offered twice a week in April and May at locations throughout the county. Classes each

week will be Monday and Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to noon; the second class will be Wednesday from 1 to 5 p.m., and Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The course is being offered on the following dates:

April 17-19, 19-21, 24-26, 26-28 May 1-3, 3-5, 8-10, 10-12, 15-17, 17-19, 22-24, 24-26
--

The training locations will vary based on the date of the class. You can sign up through your training coordinator using the Pathlore Learning Management System (course code NIMS100).

If you have any questions about the training or whether you should take the class, please contact **Joe Knerr** in the Office of Emergency Management, 703-324-2367, TTY 711, or visit the OEM training Infoweb page at <http://infoweb/oem/training>. ■

Visit the OEM training Infoweb page at <http://infoweb/oem/training>

You can find plenty of information to help you and your agency deal with inclement weather in the Emergency Communication section of the Fairfax County Communication Strategy at <http://infoweb/cex/comstrategy/emergency>. Sign up for the EAN, or Emergency Alert Network, and receive notices by e-mail, cell phone, pager, BlackBerry and other mobile devices that receive text messages in real-time during an emergency or major incident, such as severe weather or a terrorist attack. Sign up for the EAN at <http://infoweb/emergency/eon>. ■

Adult day health care offers an option

If a relative is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or experiences a chronic, debilitating illness, many families may feel as if they have only two options for care: either provide round-the-clock home care or to place their loved one in a nursing home. As more family caregivers are making the choice to care for their loved ones at home, adult day health care (ADHC) is becoming more popular.

ADHC programs are designed to provide a safe, fun and therapeutic environment for frail elderly or adults with disabilities who need supervision during the day due to cognitive and/or physical impairment. They typically offer health monitoring by a registered nurse, nutritious meals, daily exercise programs and other therapeutic activities, assistance with personal care and many opportunities for socialization. The program aims to:

- ♦ Prevent or delay institutionalization.
- ♦ Provide a variety of services, including restorative/maintenance therapy and preventive health care in a single setting.
- ♦ Promote the well being of participants by providing a variety of activities in warm, stimulating and social environment.
- ♦ Provide family members relief from their caregiving responsibilities.

The Fairfax County Health Department operates five adult day health care centers and is

planning to open its sixth center in response to the mounting need for community-based long term care for the elderly. Over the past 20 years, Fairfax County, with more than 1 million residents, has seen a significant increase in the senior population. According to the 2000 Census, 11 percent of the population or 111,415 people were age 60 and older. It is estimated that this population will increase by 44 percent in 2010 to 160,188 persons. Residents age 85 and older - those with the greatest degree of frailty and in most need of long-term care services - will

increase by 39 percent from 6,922 people in 2000 to 9,604 people in 2010. Adult day health care programs will play a critical role in the long-term care arena as the aging population grows and more caregivers decide to care for their loved ones at home.

For more information about the benefits of the Fairfax County Health Department Adult Day Health Care Program, contact **Shauna Severo** at 703-246-8633, TTY 711, or visit the Web page at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/adhc. ■

Participants at an adult day health care facility in the county enjoy friendship and games.



Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day

April 27 is the nationally recognized Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day and will be celebrated throughout Fairfax County as a time when county employees can show their children the work they do.

"This year, we want parents to introduce their sons and daughters to a professional work environment," said **Cathy Maynard**, county project coordinator, who pointed out that many young people have never seen an office operations nor considered the work their parents do.

There will be no central events or displays at the Government Center this year. Agencies and offices should encourage their employees to participate in this program and develop plans and activities that will contribute to the participating children's awareness of work environments. Endorsing this program, County Executive **Tony Griffin** said, "The young people of today are the county workforce of tomorrow. We must show them that Fairfax County government is a good place to work where important things are accomplished." Ideas for making the day memorable for participating young people can be found on the national Web site at www.daughtersandsonstowork.org.

If you have questions about Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day, please contact **Cathy Maynard**, county executive's office, 703-324-3239, TTY 711. ■

Focus on Benefits



**HR Central
has benefit
information.
703-324-4900,
TTY 703-222-7314**

Join Us for a "Lunch and Learn" Program Know Your Health: Eating and Exercising for a Healthier Me Speaker: Sherry Demilt, RN, CDE

According to a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, six out of every 10 adults are overweight or obese in the United States. That's a lot of people! Being overweight can cause many serious health problems that affect different parts of the body. However, the risk of developing many of these health problems can be reduced by maintaining a healthy weight.

The Know Your Health program "Eating and Exercising for a Healthier Me" will teach you how to make small changes in your life that will help make a big difference to your health and well-being.

This program will help you to:

- ♦ Understand the importance of keeping a healthy weight.
 - ♦ Develop healthy eating habits.
 - ♦ Choose fun exercises that will add zest to your life!
- You must register for the program by contacting the Department of Human Resources, Benefits Division, at 703-324-4916, TTY 711, soon. Space is limited.

**April 27, Noon -1 p.m.
Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway
Room 315C
Sponsored by:
Cigna HealthCare
with support from
Pfizer Inc.**

Speaker **Sherry Demilt** has been a registered nurse since 1988 and has been certified in diabetes education since 1992. She has been employed at Inova Loudoun Hospital since 1982, and has been manager of the Inova Out-Patient Diabetes Education Program for 15 years. ■

Career Fair scheduled for April 29

"Come for a job, stay for a career" is the theme of the Fairfax County Government Career Fair scheduled for Saturday, April 29, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

The career fair will provide potential job seekers with information about working for Fairfax County – the types of jobs that are available, requirements for getting a job and benefit information. Attendees can learn how to find and apply for jobs using the county's online Automated Information Management System, or AIMS. Representatives from various county agencies also will be on hand to answer questions and talk about available jobs.

"This is the second career fair sponsored

by Fairfax County Government, following the very successful event this past fall," said **Peter Schroth**, director of the Fairfax County Department of Human Resources. Representatives from more than 15 county agencies and the Fairfax County Public Schools will be available to explain job needs in their areas.

In addition to learning about working for the county and speaking firsthand with agency representatives, the career fair will include workshops that will explain how to apply for a county job – from developing and tailoring a resume to using AIMS. People who do not have a computer or Internet access will learn how they can use computer systems at public libraries, Access Fairfax or special CRiS kiosks throughout the county to access AIMS and apply for jobs.

For more information on the Fairfax County Government Career Fair, go to the Fairfax County Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/jobs/jobs.htm or call the Department of Human Resources at 703-324-4900, TTY 703-222-7314. ■



Courier Photo Contest deadline is April 21

Briefs

Briefs

Briefs

Adopt A Soldier

You can show your support for the young men and women serving in the Middle East by joining members of the James Lee Community Center and many others on Saturday, April 22, from 2 until 4 p.m. when they will pack care packages to be mailed overseas. The goal is to send 200 boxes to deployed soldiers. More than 400 boxes have been mailed during the past two years. Groups and individuals are encouraged to join in packing these boxes which will contain necessary items and touches of home that aren't available there. If you can't join in for packing, you can pick up one or more of the small boxes for mailing. The box size meets the flat rate of \$8.80 each.

The James Lee Community Center is located at 2855-A Annandale Road in Falls Church. If you have questions or want to find out how you can participate in this worthwhile project, contact **Bill Dunn** at the James Lee Community Center 703-534-3337, ext 517, TTY 703-222-9693, or dunn@fairfaxcounty.gov, at the James Lee Community Center.

Soccer anyone?

D.C. United would like to thank Fairfax County employees for their public service by offering discounted ticket pricing for all professional soccer home matches in April and May.

For complete details and to order tickets, go to <https://secure.mlsnet.com/MLS/dcu/tickets/2006/groups/fairfax/promotions>. Orders must be placed through this Web site by noon on the Friday before the game. Details of game-day promotions and additional group discounts and special incentives also are available at this Web site.

All matches are played at RFK Stadium in Washington, D.C. and easily accessible by Metro. The kickoffs are at 7:30 p.m. on Saturdays, April 15, April 29 and May 13.

For more information and requests for reasonable ADA accommodation, contact **Scott Miller**, D.C. United, at 202-587-5435, TTY 711, or smiller@dcunited.com.

Tornado Preparedness

Although March was Tornado Preparedness Month, you can still find tornado safety information on the Virginia Department of Emergency Management Web site. More than 85 tornadoes were reported in Virginia in 2004, causing more than \$70 million in damage. These tornadoes were rated only F2 or lower on the Fujita scale of wind damage, so it is easy to understand the devastation that could result from a stronger tornado. They can happen at any time of year, but April through October are the most active months for tornadoes in Virginia. If storms or tornadoes are in the area, stay informed by listening to radio, television or a NOAA Weather Radio for the latest tornado watches (which means that tornadoes are possible and you should stay tuned to the radio or television news) and warnings (which means that a tornado has been sighted and you should take shelter immediately). For more details, visit the VDEM Web site at www.vaemergency.com.

Fairfax Animal Shelter Launches Foster-Care Program

Are you a caring individual who can provide a little extra TLC to animals in need? If so, the Fairfax County Animal Shelter is looking for people interested in providing

temporary, in-home foster care for cats, kittens, small mammals and special-needs dogs. Training and support will be offered to all foster-care providers. If you can offer a temporary home for an animal in need or have questions, please contact **Ellen Kamilakis** or contact the animal shelter at 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030, 703-830-1100, TTY 703-691-3255, for an application form. Complete and submit your application by April 21 to attend the first foster care provider orientation as part of this exciting new program.

Mark Your Calendar for the Third Annual Earth Day Expo

Fairfax County's Employee Recycling Committee will be holding the Third Annual Earth Day Expo on Friday, April 21, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the north atrium of the Government Center (outside the cafeteria on the first floor). Come help celebrate Earth Day and learn what you can do to make your workplace a greener place.

Visit exhibits of agencies who work together to promote Fairfax County's environmental stewardship goals. Win fabulous prizes donated by our exhibitors! For more information on the Earth Day Expo, check out the pictures from last year's event on the ERC Infoweb page.

If your agency would like the opportunity to showcase your achievements and educate your peers by participating in the expo, please e-mail erc@fairfaxcounty.gov for more information. For reasonable ADA accommodations, contact **Marion Plummer** at 703-324-5451, TTY 711. ■

Cellular phone and wireless device safety: Your most important call

Do you know that more than 85 percent of cellular phone owners make calls while driving? Vehicle safety is fast becoming an important issue when using cell phones and wireless devices while driving.

Although cell phones and wireless devices are valuable in our work, using them may cause greater driver distraction that can result in accidents. Fairfax County is taking steps to change ways of driving county vehicles that will help reduce trends in driver distraction and inattention while using such equipment.

On March 9, the county published Procedural Memorandum (PM) No. 06-04, Use of Cellular Phones and other Communication Equipment While Operating County Vehicles. The PM establishes policy and pro-

cedures for using cell phones and other communication equipment while operating county vehicles.

Tips for safe use of cell phones and other wireless devices while driving:

- ✓ Use a hands-free device.
- ✓ Position your phone within easy reach.
- ✓ Let the person you are talking to know that you are driving. As recommended in the county policy, identify the priority of the call and stop the vehicle if the incoming call must be accepted.
- ✓ If possible, avoid using communication devices while operating a vehicle.
- ✓ Place calls when you are not moving or before you begin driving.

The policy directs cell phone and wireless device use as follows:

- ♦ Cell phone use shall be limited to "hands free" by the vehicle operator when the vehicle is in motion. However the vehicle operator may answer a call to determine its priority. If a reply is required, the vehicle must be stationary for the remainder of the call.

♦ If "hands free" capability is not available in a vehicle, the operator must leave the roadway and park in a safe area before using a cell phone

♦ Public Safety agencies are authorized to develop specific guidance for all communication equipment installed or carried in a vehicle when operating emergency vehicles.

This policy recognizes trends of driver distractions as a significant cause of and contributor to accidents, resulting in employee injuries and prop-

erty damage.

If you would like more information on the county's Procedural Memorandum No. 06-04 or additional information on driver safety, please contact **Teri Flynn**, risk manager, or **Amin Abdul-Aziz**, safety manager, at 703-324-3040, TTY 711, in the Risk Management Division, Department of Finance. ■

EAC rally voices employee concerns

More than 700 employees were estimated to have attended two Employee Advisory Council-sponsored rallies recently to express concern about the Pay for Performance System. According to **Anita Baker**, EAC chair, employees are asking for a 2 percent across-the-board salary adjustment for general county employees. For more information, contact your EAC representative or visit the EAC Web site at www.fceac.org. ■



Employees attend an EAC-sponsored rally in front of the Government Center on April 4. A previous rally was held in the Government Center forum on March 22.

Courier

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